

THE RETURN OF BISMARCK.

AGAIN.
BERLIN, June 12.—The promoter seeking to bring about a truce between the

Emperor of Germany and the Iron Chancellor, saw his plans promulgated and disclosed and frustrated by one of the puerile accidents which have ever now disconcerted the sagacious and the wise. He had planned to marry a girl who was wanted to diplomacy and strategy than Prince Albert of Prussia. A confidential letter written to a General of the Guard, dropped during a morning ride, found by a third party, carried to a Socialist newspaper, and on the following day the London and other European press, belittled the ruin of the hopes which had already so few chances of success.

Prince Albert of Prussia is the son of the youngest brother of the old Emperor William I. and has now reached his fifth year. Amid all the preeminently handsome and stalwart figures of the German Empire, he is undoubtedly one of the handsomest and finest looking. It is possibly on account of these physical advantages that he has been so frequently so-

believed to represent the Emperor and the empress, and the Emperor's and empress's children, all seated at both home and abroad. At the pageants of military funerals, of court marriages, of coronations, of baptisms, his tall figure, clad in the blue uniform of the Dragoons, plays a conspicuous and highly decorative part. Prince Albert is a man of a high order of talents. He is scrupulously fulfils his military duties, and like all the men of his house, is a brave soldier; but he is not credited with extraordinary genius or cleverness. His father, the elder Prince Albert, of whom it was said that he was "a man of a hundred talents," was neither handsome nor witty, had a somewhat chagured matrimonial experience. The scandal mongers and gossip lovers of Berlin society made free with the name of his wife, the Princess of the Netherlands, during the years ranging from 1820 to 1840, and the couple were divorced. The present Prince Albert was the only son born of that ill-starred union, and is himself the father of three boys whose mother is a Princess of Saxe-Altenburg, and the youngest of the royal princes is 19, and the youngest 13.

Prince Albert seemed, by reason of his birth and position at court and in his family, to be predestined to a monotonous, cut and dried uneventful career; but the sudden factor of Blucher's intervention, and the brilliant career of the prince from the shadows in which he dwelt, brought him prominently into a fuller light and endowed him with a crown and a regency. These events are not a decade old as yet, and still they seem already to have faded into oblivion, and to have been forgotten by the ordinary history connected with Brit. in politics.

Nine years ago the throne of Brunswick became vacant. The reigning Duke died childless, and the succession should legitimately have fallen into the hands of the Duke of Cumberland, the eldest son of the Duke of Devonshire. But his high lordship had always been violently hostile to Prussia, which had confiscated his property, devoting the revenues to the secret political ex-

land, at the death of the Duke of Brunswick issued a proclamation, in which he declared himself ready to govern according to imperial constitutional laws; but Bismarck, as was expected, did not consider those assurances as sufficient to justify the Prussian Government to accept them, and took advantage of the situation to plant Prussia in the very heart of the small duchy that formed part of the confederation and possessed an important civil list. It was on the proposal of the Chancellor that on the 15th of June 1866 the Prussian Government declared the liability of the Duke of Cumberland to reign over Brunswick, in spite of his inherited rights, as he stood with regard to Prussia in an attitude incompatible and even antagonistic to the constitutional relations which existed between the confederal States, and owing to his claims on the territories belonging to that State.

Only two votes were lifted in council against this decision: those of the plenipotentiaries of Reuss, a princely numberling 5,000 inhabitants, and the Elector of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, counting 40,000.

Under these circumstances, became im-

relative to nominate a Regent for Brunswick, and Bismarck, working out his plans, brought forward his candidate, Prince Albert of Hohenzollern, who was a man of high character, and who solemnly took possession of the duchy, which, with its splendid palace covering a frontage of nearly 400 feet; its museums, containing rich collections, and a civil list of more than 1,200,000 marks a quarter of which was affected to the Regent, constituted a superb gift. The population does not exceed 400,000 inhabitants, and the Regent has three sons, and no one to search. The civil list is, however, not included in the ducal budget.

Not only have the rulers of Brunswick the enjoyment of a sumptuous winter palace in the capital, but they have also the pretty summer residence of Blankenburg, whence was dated the famous letter written by Prince Albert and Bismarck, which interfered.

It is difficult to accept whether the Regent is genuinely popular or orally liked in Brunswick; he has never committed any acts of arbitrary authority, and it is very doubtful whether the Duke of Cumberland would have been more heartily adopted. Prince Albert found a constitutional monarchy established in his native Prussia, and he had not had the least inclination to alter it.

His only ambition is for his eldest son. He went to Berlin last year on the occasion of the visit to that city of the Queen Regent of the Netherlands and her daughter, the young Queen Wilhelmina. The choice of a husband for Wilhelmina is already a matter of serious pre-occupation: it is considered more than probable that she will marry a German prince.

The eligible suitors Prince Frederick Henry, the eldest son of the Regent of Brunswick, the most persistently brought forward. His father is essentially in constant relations with the court of Holland, even having a permanent residence at the Hague, and it is to be feared the future may bring to the disadvantage of his family. Prince Albert is at present, above all, anxious to keep the Regency of Brunswick. When in 1804 the Duke of Cumberland entered upon a transaction with Prussia and concluded an agreement to recover the possession of his property, it was arranged that he should deliver up his function on his part of a viceroy and that the tranquillity of the German empire or that of one of the states which form part of it; he declared that he loved his country loyally and sincerely. It was supposed at the time that these formal and categorical declarations would put an end to the Regency of Prince Albert; but they have as yet altered nothing in the position of the Regent, who still remains a Prussian province, notwithstanding the submission of its legitimate owner.

The Regent is profoundly vexed at the incident of the lost and published letter, for he considers it a serious stain on his honor, and he is likely to abandon now and then any attempt at conciliation between himself and his subjects. He has, however, the advantage of being able to do this, which, even if it were at any future time necessary, would not restore Prince Bernhard to his position of influence in the country. The Chancellor has been an oracle whose words have been listened to with interest and still extolled. His statue, as it were, is throughout the country; but these honors are of little value to him, as he has already passed away, as if he had taken his last breath.

William II. inaugurated the monument of his grandfather in Silesia, with the two statues of Bismarck and Helmuth on either side of the old chancellor. The statue that is read, but he is not more a figure of the past than the living ex-chancellor; and neither the dutiful groavess of Prince Albert nor the perfunctory groavess of the nation will ever galvanize him into active governmental existence again.